

Mr. Riis: That is exactly what the postal department said.

Today the post office in Westwold is in the Legion bar. This is wrong. This shows the bull-headedness and the single-mindedness of the postal corporation to privatize no matter what, no matter if it makes any sense at all.

This is about the most ridiculous decision of the postal corporation imaginable.

• (1050)

We oppose this bill because we have looked through it carefully and we have asked if this bill improves the service to Canadians. Does this bill help improve service to urban and rural Canadians? We have gone through this bill clause by clause and we have not found a single point in this legislation that would lead us to believe this will improve service one iota. We cannot support it for that reason.

We asked ourselves if this will result in the postal corporation's stopping harassment of its union members and sticking to its word. We looked through and found no evidence of that. We assume that will continue.

I am trying to think of a single reason why anyone would support this legislation. I have listened carefully to my colleagues across the way and perhaps this is their idea of comedy or humour because I have not heard a single reference to any reason why this bill ought to be supported, even by members of the government.

They talk of a need to have a more efficient post office. This will not do that. They talk about improved management relations. This will not do that. They talk about this being a progressive idea because it will give the opportunity for people to be meaningfully involved in the future of the post office. That is not the case. These are non-voting shares. The post office is already owned in part by its employees and now to say they can have a chance to buy and own a part seems to be nonsensical.

As we pour through the legislation at second reading and discuss the principle of the legislation, we are trying to identify a single reason why we should support this. We are trying to listen carefully to the Conservative members while they speak to identify a single reason and yet it is very wanting. I can only say we will not support this legislation.

Government Orders

Let me make a suggestion to my hon. friends sitting opposite on the government benches. If they wanted to send a very positive signal to the employees of the postal corporation, they would withdraw this legislation and say our first priority will be to settle the collective agreement. That would be the first gesture.

If they said they would withdraw this silly nonsensical legislation and instruct our negotiators to resolve this contractual dispute immediately, it would send the second most positive signal to the employees of Canada Post. It would encourage them to see some hope in an approved operation.

The way the government and the minister responsible for Canada Post could make Canadians and the people who work in the postal corporation the happiest of all would be to announce that on July 1, Canada's birthday, the Progressive Conservative government will call an election.

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Madam Speaker, I listened with interest to the hon. member's remarks. I have a question for him.

He is seeking a single reason why his party should be supporting this legislation. I would like to ask him if he agrees with any of the reasons for this type of move currently being proposed by the New Democratic government in Ontario.

I noted in the Speech from the Throne that one of the objectives of the Government of Ontario in the coming session is to achieve worker-ownership legislation. Worker-ownership legislation will come forward for final debate.

I would like to quote from the proposed reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act, a discussion paper tabled by the Ontario Ministry of Labour in November 1991. This is a most interesting document. I will quote from the Ontario NDP government's labour reforms under section 1.3, entitled "The Government's Social and Economic Agenda". I note with interest that one of the points the Ontario NDP government is making as part of its agenda is:

"Encouraging worker investment and ownership in Ontario companies in a manner which recognizes the benefits of worker participation for both labour and business".